

You want to know if I ever
hear from Sam. I have had
one letter from him in one
year and that I got a few
days ago. You think I
must get lawful business
I am happy to say that
you have got the wrong
impression altogether. it
is a disease that I don't
let trouble me at all.
I was half inclined to
be angry with him morning
when the order came to fix
up for winter quarters. But
we are situated on a bold
knoll and have to go on
three quarters of a mile
for water and wood.
I hope we shall move back
to some place more suit-
able.
I have written a longer
letter than I am in the
habit of writing, so I will
close.
I have written a longer
letter than I am in the
habit of writing, so I will
close.
I have written a longer
letter than I am in the
habit of writing, so I will
close.

Nov. 17th 1864.

Dear Mother

I received your letter
of the 3^d about a week ago. and
one of the 8th yesterday and was
glad to hear that you were all
well. Since I wrote you last
we have fallen back about eight
miles from Cedar Creek our former
position. We did not get much
rest for three or four days after
we got back here, for we had
to go to work building breast
works. We had to work night
and day what time we was not

at work. we were under arms, with everything packed up.

We expected we should have another fight. for they appeared rather bold. we skirmished with them for two days. they finally found that Phil and his whole family were at home so they thought they had better get back they have gone to New Market a distance of about 50 miles.

We have got orders to fix up for winter quarters. we got the order about an hour ago. and the boys have started out for lumber. they made a charge on two farms right close to camp and had them all torn to pieces before the officers could stop them. I have got boards enough to make quite a comfortable hut for the winter.

I must write Lute a few lines.
Give my love to all. Grants

Dear Sister Lute

I suppose you begin to think by this time that I do not intend to write to you. you speak about writing to me but I ~~never~~ have not recieved any only what you wrote in mothers.

You want to know how I spend my time. well I can tell you. ~~in~~ the first thing on the programme is. the drum beats the reveille at four o'clock in the morning every man has to be in line behind the breastworks with gun and accoutrements on. and stand there till after daylight. that we have had to do since Mr Early surprised us on the 19th of oct. they dont want him^{to} repeat the operation again. although he got the worst of it in the end. The next thing is. to get our breakfast. which dont take long

The next comes drill at nine o'clock
untill eleven, the idea of drilling
old soldiers our boys dont think much
of. if we halt more than one day
in a place our Brigade Comm-
ander will issue orders for drill.
We had orders to drill as usual
the other day and it was not
fifteen minutes after the Johnnies
came rushing on to our pickets
and were in sight of camp
we thought we was agone to have a
chance to drill in earnest. but did not
we went out and had a skirmish with
them but they skeddaddled.

Well. we fall in for drill again at
two o'clock and come in at four. Dress
parade at five. roll call at six. another
at eight which ends the day. so you can
see how much leisure time I get to my ^{self}